

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 AF-10 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 013296

R 221250Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1182

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0276

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : MARR, PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN

REF : (A) MANAMA 0166; (B) MANAMA 0235

1. DURING APRIL 18 CALL ON PRIME MINISTER KHALIFA BY CHARGE ABOUT ANOTHER MATTER, KHALIFU RAISED MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION IN HIS USUAL OBLIQUE FASHION. KHALIFA SAW "CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP" OF BAHRAIN AND THE UNITED STATES (I.E. MIDDLE EAST FORCE) AS VERY IMPORTANT TO BAHRAIN. KHALIFA WAS PRESSING THIS VIEW ON MEMBERS OF BAHRAIN'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (MANAMA 0166) AND BELIEVED HE WAS HAVING SOME SUCCESS. GIVEN ENOUGH TIME, HE THOUGHT THE ASSEMBLY COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND.

2. CHARGE SAID TIME WAS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FACTOR. SHEIKH MOHAMMAD, THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD CHARGE BEFORE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK THAT HE WOULD TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE PROBLEM WHEN HE RETURNED TO BAHRAIN. THE PRIME MINISTER NODDED BUT MADE NO RESPONSE.

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COMMENT: FOREGOING MEANS THAT GOB IS STILL THINKING IN

POSITIVE TERMS ABOUT EXTENDING MIDDLE EAST FORCE. ALTHOUGH
PRIME MINISTER FAILED TO MENTION AMERICAN PEACE EFFORTS IN MIDDLE EAST,
WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS ON ISRAEL-
SYRIA FRONT IS CRUCIAL FACTOR FOR WITHDRAWING MEF TERMINATION
NOTICE. IN ANY CASE, THERE MAY BE SOME PROSPECT FOR MOVEMENT
ON THIS ISSUE WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM NEW YORK
IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
KILLGORE

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NNN

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